

4-6-1976

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, circa April 6-13, 1976

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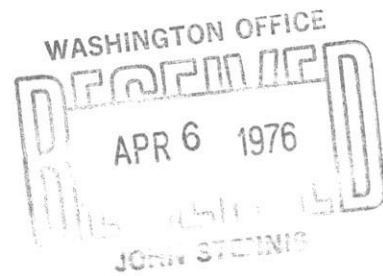
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Donna  
POG

Prentiss Miss

Senator John Stennis  
Washington D.C.



Dear Senator Stennis,

Do white people have civil rights? I ask that because it seems to me that we do not.

I am wondering how those teachers in Calhoun County could have been fired because they have their own children in private school and were teaching in the public schools.

I am wondering because I am in a situation like theirs. The schools in Jefferson Davis County are about 95% black. I have two boys who are ten and eight. They are not the brightest children in the world, but they do have a

right to the best education I can give them. They are not special to anyone but my husband and me and we must do our best for them. They come first.

I try to do my best for the children I teach and for anyone to think, that, because I send my own children to private school, that I do not do my best is a downright insult to me and my profession. I must take care of my own children before I can take care of others.

I must tell you that I do not have enough time for the children, black or white, in my class who want to learn. The reason for this is because there are so many who don't care what they do and become a constant disruption. My own children cannot

function in such an environment.

Could you give me your opinion on how you think the Supreme Court will rule in the Calhoun County teachers' case? I feel that they will be denied their jobs. If they are denied their jobs, won't anyone whose employer decides that if the employee has their children in a private school, they can dismiss them?

I have heard of cases of admitted Communists teachers who have been denied employment by a school system then have been ordered re-instated by the Supreme Court. Are we people who have chosen to send our children to private school such monsters that we must be persecuted?

I have recently bought an American flag for my boys to

fly from our porch. Recently I have begun to ask myself if its worth it. Will my boys wonder why their mother was denied the right to work in a locality and calling of her choice in a supposedly "free" country?

If I am denied my rights by the government which is supposed to protect those rights, how will we feel when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

Does the constitution really mean anything? What kind of future do my boys have in this country?

We had seriously considered moving to Australia several years ago; should we begin to consider this move again?

I realize that things in any country cannot be perfect, but since the Supreme Court has taken over

the government, this country has gone from good to bad. I fear for its future!

My tax money still goes to support public education. The school I have chosen for my own children is helped by no one, but still my own children are getting a good education.

If I refuse to pay my taxes for public education as some people refused to pay theirs in protest of the war in Viet Nam, what would happen to me?

I am also writing to Senator James Eastland and Representative G. W. Montgomery. Perhaps one of you can answer some of my questions.

Hoping you will read my letter  
I am Respectfully yours  
[Redacted]

~~35~~ -

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

April 13, 1976

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Prentiss, Mississippi 39474

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your fine letter which I appreciate so very much. ?

Our country is facing some mighty difficult problems. It will take a lot of hard work and rethinking of goals by all our citizens. As I work to do my part in the legislative branch of government, more than ever before I need the good advice of the people from home like you who take the time to think seriously about our country's future. I am indeed grateful and want you to know that your advice is extremely helpful.

With warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,

John C. Stennis  
United States Senator

JCS:dk